



# The Pine Cone



Lone Pine State Park

Volume 2, Issue 2

## A Quick Escape

by Melissa Sladek

Orange cones, stop signs, and flaggers with neon vests... all indicators of one thing, summertime in Northwest Montana. As I weave in and out of the various paved and unpaved lanes on my way to work, I realize that my drive to work is becoming increasingly more chaotic. It seems everywhere I look construction is taking place. Whether it's new roads, new box stores, or new homes, there's no denying it, this valley is growing and at an exhilarating pace.

Growth, in and of itself, can be a great thing. New businesses and stores can mean new jobs and higher paying opportunities for local residents. But, rapid growth that is haphazardly planned can also cause many stresses.

One of these stresses is the loss of open space near our communities. Driving through road construction causes enough tension and,

after getting off work, few of us would pick jumping back in our cars in order to find a pleasant spot to relax. This is why having natural places, close to town, are vital to our health and happiness. They offer a place to recreate in a calm, peaceful, natural setting.

Lone Pine is such a place. Located five miles from Kalispell, this local state park benefits both community residents and travelers alike who are looking for a quick escape. Although the park is only 230 acres, it offers approximately five miles of trail to hike, bike or run on. Archers are also welcome to practice their craft on Lone Pine's half-mile course, located among native grasses and wildflowers. And often, it's just the right place for a family picnic. Wherever your interest lies, Lone Pine offers cool forests, sun-dripped grasslands, and beautiful views, all within minutes from town. So walk, bike or run over to Lone Pine and make your quick escape today!

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### Special Points of Interest:

- *It's time once again for Lone Pine's Little Saplings, nature fun for kids! Check out this summer's schedule on page 2.*
- *Raptor Day is almost here! Mark your calendars for August 25 and join us for this exciting event.*
- *Adults, we haven't forgotten you! Look on page 3 for great summer workshops.*

## Hawk Talk

Do hawks talk? What do they eat? How do they capture their meal? To find out the answers to these questions and more, join a park naturalist and Lone Pine's two red-tailed hawks for our Saturday afternoon raptor programs. Talks will be held at the raptor cage, located next to the picnic shelter. After the program, stay to watch the birds eat their Saturday afternoon meal!

<b>Dates:</b>	July 7 - August 18
<b>Time:</b>	1:00 - 1:45 p.m.
<b>Cost:</b>	FREE
<b>Location:</b>	Raptor Cage, next to picnic shelter

## Lone Pine's Little Saplings

Looking for fun, nature-oriented activities for your little ones? Then Lone Pine has the program for you! Join a ranger on Friday mornings at 11:00 a.m. throughout the summer for a story followed by an exciting, hands-on activity.

Lone Pine's Little Saplings is an hour-long program featuring beautifully illustrated children's nature books that tie into each week's educational theme. Come once or join us each week for Friday morning fun! Little Saplings is geared for ages 4-7 and costs \$3 per child or purchase all 8 sessions for \$20. Dates and program schedule listed below.

- ◆ June 29: "Flap, Flap, Flutter" featuring the story Are you a Butterfly?
- ◆ July 6: "More Than Meets the Nose" featuring Skunks
- ◆ July 13: "Beetles of Our Lady" featuring A Ladybug's Life
- ◆ July 20: "Wings, Beak and Feathers" featuring What is a Bird?
- ◆ July 27: "From Seed to Tree" featuring Starting Life: Tree
- ◆ August 3: "Songs of Nature" featuring Frogs Sing Songs
- ◆ August 10: "A Quick Beat" featuring A Hummingbird's Life
- ◆ August 17: "The Gift of Life" featuring Water Dance

Lone Pine's Little Saplings meet at the Lone Pine Picnic Shelter, located just inside the park entrance. Please bring weather-appropriate clothing, as many activities will be held outside. For more information call 751-4589.

**Nature Fun for Kids!**



*Having Fun at Lone Pine*

## Raptor Day Celebration!

This summer Lone Pine State Park and Flathead Audubon have teamed up to bring you the first annual Raptor Day Celebration. This community event celebrates the many unique and beautiful species of birds found in Northwest Montana with a special emphasis on raptors. Raptors, also known as birds of prey, are armed with keen eyesight, sharp, hooked beaks and powerful feet, making them no match for the animals they hunt. Watching them soaring above is a powerful sight, but seeing them up close allows one to appreciate their beauty and strength.

Join us on Saturday, August 25, and experience some of these birds up close. From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. educational

booths, featuring bird identification, habitat, and management, will be set up around Lone Pine's Picnic Shelter. In addition, a variety of programs will run throughout the day. Highlighting the event are Ralph Rogers, a falconer from central Montana, who will present his live falcons at 4 p.m. and Denver Holt, founder of the Owl Research Institute, who will give his dynamic presentation on Montana owls at 6 p.m.

Other presentations include a Bird Photography Workshop at 12 p.m. and Hawk Talk at 1 p.m. Bird walks will also be held at 8 & 10 a.m. **All programs are FREE!** Mark your calendar and join us for this great community event!

## Adult Summer Workshop Series

Warm temperatures and bright sunny days mean one thing in the Flathead Valley...it's time for Lone Pine State Park's adult summer workshops! This year we kicked off our series on June 20 with a fun and informative workshop on native plants. Led by Terry Divoky, owner and operator of Windflower Native Plant Nursery, participants learned basic plant identification, the importance of natives over invasives, and how to select native plants for their gardens. The knowledge and information passed between all members of the group made for an enlightening and enjoyable evening. Lone Pine will host three more stimulating workshops, led by experienced and enthusiastic instructors, in July and August.

Join us in a casual and fun group atmosphere and learn more about one of your favorite new pastimes. All workshops will be held at the Lone Pine Picnic Shelter, located just past the entrance gate on the left. Dates and workshop descriptions are listed to the right.



## Adult Workshop Schedule

### Wednesday, July 11: Birding for the Beginner

Join us for this exciting workshop on birding. Ansley Ford, an educator and avid member of Flathead Audubon, will guide you in the art of looking for and finding birds of the forest. Learn how to recognize birds by the niche they occupy, their calls, and their movements. *Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.*

### Wednesday, July 25: On the Trail Repair

Ron Brunk, owner of the Glacier Cyclery in Whitefish, will provide workshop participants with the ins and outs of basic bike repair. Join Ron and learn how to repair broken chains, flat tires, and other emergencies that commonly occur on the road or trail. *Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.*

### Saturday, August 4: Using GPS

Interested in learning how to use your GPS accurately? Want to add to your collective knowledge of tried and true navigational skills that work in the field? Then don't miss this workshop taught by Warden Sergeant Frank Bowen of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. *Time: 9:00 a.m. – noon*

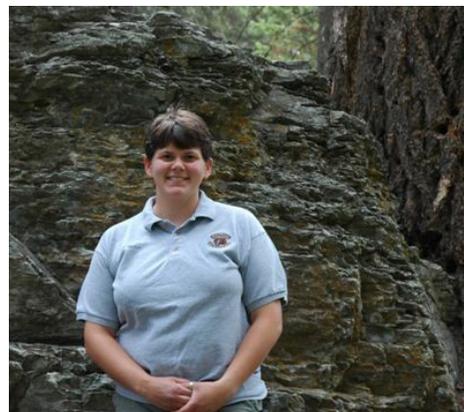
**All workshops cost \$5.00 per person. Call 751-4589 for more information.**

## Lone Pine's New Park Manager

What makes a good park manager? Education and experience come to mind, but in a region with numerous parks, a limited budget, and not to mention, an extremely small staff, it takes more than education and experience to be a good park manager. It takes dedication, passion, and a love for the resource. Finding a manager with all of these qualities is no easy task, so when Amy Grout was promoted to park manager, we all had something to celebrate.

Amy began her career with Montana State Parks during the summer of 2004 when she took an internship at Lone Pine to fill needed requirements for her bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism, which she received from Colorado State University in December of 2004. Soon after graduation, she jumped at the

opportunity to come back to Montana when offered the seasonal park ranger position for the Northwest District



*Amy Grout, Lone Pine's New Park Manager*

of Region One. During the summers of 2005 and 2006, Amy worked hard to write, develop, and implement the Thompson Chain of Lakes Management Plan, which addressed

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issues such as site protection, forest health, and public facilities.

Amy's drive and motivation at the Thompson Chain of Lakes and other assigned parks paid off when she was selected this past May as the new Park Management Specialist for the Northwest District of our region.

Lone Pine is one of the parks under Amy's care, and her enthusiasm for its future is hard to beat. She hopes to expand on the existing trails system, explore options for additional parking at the lower entrances, and continue to provide and expand on the quality programming offered at the park. Having Amy as Lone Pine's manager is reason to celebrate. Not because of her education and experience, but because of her passion and love of the park. As she says, "Lone Pine holds a very special place in my heart...it's where I got started." Congratulations Amy and good luck in your new position!

## Temporary Visitor Center

The Lone Pine Interpretive Center will be closed this summer due to a remodeling and renovation project. Visitor information, trail brochures, and interpretive displays will be available at the visitor welcome station, located across from the picnic pavilion. This temporary visitor center is a yurt that normally resides in Big Arm State Park where it is rented out to campers looking for a comfortable overnight stay. After the Lone Pine Interpretive Center reopens this fall, our temporary welcome station will head back down south to its home in Big Arm. Until then, please don't hesitate to visit us and obtain needed information. Summer hours are listed below.

### Welcome Station Summer Hours

Wednesdays & Thursdays : 12 - 5 p.m.

Fridays & Saturdays: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sundays: 12 - 5 p.m.

Mondays & Tuesdays: CLOSED